

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-47 (canceled)

Claim 48 (new): A retractor useful in surgery, said retractor having

*a main structural member* defining

a handle region,

a distal region, and

an intermediate region, said intermediate region curving on planes normal to its main transverse dimension thereby to define a low profile form having a "concave" lower side and a "convex" upper side,

*a light duct* capable of ducting light it receives, said duct, at least in part away from its handle proximate inlet end, substantially conforming to the intermediate region so as to maintain a low profile thereover whilst having an emission end capable of emitting light the duct has received towards a zone in which said distal region of the main structural member is being operated,

*attachment apparatus* integral with or attaching to the light duct at or adjacent the inlet end of the light duct engaged with or for engagement with the main structural member, and

*a shielding member* attachable to at least one of

i) the attachment member,

ii) the light duct, and

iii) the intermediate member

so as, also in a low profile at least in part away from its handle proximate end, of substantially conforming to the light duct and/or the adjacent intermediate region.

Claim 49 (new): The retractor assembly according to claim 48 in which the light duct is a moulded transparent plastics member

preferably having the attachment integrally moulded therewith.

Claim 50 (new): The retractor assembly according to claim 48 in which the light duct is a fabrication from two moulded components.

Claim 51 (new): The retractor assembly according to claim 48 in which said light duct is adapted at its inlet end to receive light ducted via light cable, a fibre optic bundle, tube, light cable or the like.

Claim 52 (new): The retractor assembly according to claim 48 in which the ratio between the light inlet surface area and light outlet surface area is a ratio of no less than 1:1 and no more than 1:11.

Claim 53 (new): The retractor assembly according to claim 52 in which the ratio between the light inlet surface area and light outlet surface area is 1:2.2

Claim 54 (new): The retractor assembly according to claim 48 in which the emission end of the light duct is substantially of a flattened section so as to better conform to the low profile of the intermediate region.

Claim 55 (new): The retractor assembly according to claim 54 in which the flattening and broadening is such that the outlet is thinner than the inlet diameter or notional diameter and is at least as wide as two such diameters.

Claim 56 (new): The retractor assembly according to claim 55 in which the flattening and broadening is such that the outlet is thinner than the inlet diameter or notional diameter and is at least as wide as three or more such diameters.

Claim 57 (new): The retractor assembly according to claim 54 in which the light duct splays to said flattened form from a non flattened form at the inlet end.

Claim 58 (new): The retractor assembly according to claim 57 in which the shielding member has a form adapted to conform closely to the flattened form of the light duct.

Claim 59 (new): A retractor assembly suitable for hip or other joint surgery, the assembly comprising or including

*a structural member* capable of being used as a retractor, the structural member having, as a proximal region, a handle or manipulation control region extending through a curved region to a distal region adapted for use in a suitable patient,

at least one light ducting means carried directly or indirectly by the structural member with a light inlet in use to receive light and, reliant on internal reflection of the light, to transmit such received light to an emission zone which will cast light to a zone at and/or about said distal region, and

at least one LED or other light source carried directly or indirectly by the structural member and positioned to provide light inputs into the inlet(s) of the light ducting means, and

provision for mounting a battery and completing the operating circuit of the LED(s) or other light source(s),

wherein when assembled the light ducting means can illuminate the and/or about the distal region.

Claim 60 (new): The retractor assembly according to claim 59 in which a shield overlays at least part of the light ducting means.

Claim 61 (new): The retractor assembly according to claim 59 in which the completion of the operating circuit of the LED or other light source is performed by a switch.

Claim 62 (new): The retractor assembly according to claim 60 in which the completion of the operating circuit of the LED or other light source is performed by a switch.